

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/886,879

Examiner

Hung H. Lam

Applicant(s)

SHIMAOKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the claims as filed on 06/21/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06/21/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest:

"A camera operating apparatus for operating at least one camera unit at first and second operation speeds and at an operation direction which are to be changed by an operator, comprising:

a retainer having an operation surface.

a joystick mounted on said retainer and said operation surface of said retainer to input a first speed signal indicative of said inclination angle varied in response to said first operation speed to said camera unit.

a plurality of keys each operatively arranged on said retainer to perform a key-pushed action and a key-released action, each of said keys being operative to input a key signal indicative of said key-pushed action, said keys including one specified key

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selected for said second operation speed to said camera unit desired by said operator;
and

output signal generating means for generating a second speed signal indicative of said second operation speed to said camera unit based on said first speed signal from said joystick and said key signal from said specified key, said output signal generating means being operative to output said second speed signal to said camera unit to ensure said second operation speed to said camera unit desired by said operator." in combination with other elements.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Miura et al. (US-5,973,471) disclose a micromanipulator system wherein the joystick and keybroad are used to control a camera's speed and direction.

b) Rodes et al. (US-5,745,166) disclose a video security system allowing manual operation from the keyboard and joystick.

c) Wakiyama et al. (US-6,392,693) disclose a monitoring video camera apparatus wherein the controller of the camera generates and transmits the command in response to the operation keys and joystick.

d) Wada et al. (US-6,744,461) disclose a monitor camera system turning to a preset direction in response to the numeric key-pad.

e) Paff et al. (US-5,430,511) disclose a controller for surveillance camera which enables operators' fingers to control a plurality of functions of camera and lens.

f) Paff et al. (US-5,801,770) disclose a surveillance apparatus with enhanced control of camera and lens assembly.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 703-305-8143 (571-272-7367 after 03/02/05). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary, NGOC YEN VU can be reached on 703-305-4946 (571-272-7320 after

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02/28/05). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL

02/03/05



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER